The Corps
of
Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

A Collection of RCEME Cartoons

By

Earl Hodge
RCEME Branch Artist

The RCEME Heritage Archives

CORPORAL (RETIRED) EARL HODGE, CD, RCEME, LORE, LEME, EME BRANCH ARTIST

Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge was born 1932 in Tynehead, Surrey BC. He spent his childhood days going to school in New Westminster until the age of 14, when he went north to the Interior of BC. He started his first career in the forest industry as a skidder man hauling logs out of the forest during the winter. Throughout the summer months, he worked at Gang Ranch and Douglas Lake Cattle Company as a ranch hand. He became interested in carving and his first works were with Bass Relief carving, which he entered in the Fall Fair in 1949 at Prince George, BC. He took first place and won $1.00, which sparked his interest even more.

Believing that drafting would enhance his art ambitions, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge decided to join the Canadian Army as a draftsman in 1951 at the tender age of 19 years. He completed his basic training and was waiting for his drafting course. In those days, if you were not busy, you were found a job and in his case, it was washing dishes in the Officers' Mess. Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge decided at this point to forget about waiting 11 months for his course and volunteered to be a tank mechanic. He was sent off to Barriefield, ON (currently CFB Kingston) for his Group 1 course. Upon completing his course, he was sent to CFB Calgary Workshop and in 1952, he volunteered for a posting to the workshop in Wainwright. While employed there, his artist skills were put to good use in painting murals for the Mens' Canteen.

In 1953, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge volunteered and was posted to 40 Infantry Brigade, serving with 41 Infantry Brigade and he found himself in Korea. There, he was in charge of the grease rack and the paint shop and he worked in the Vehicle Wheeled Section. During his time in Korea, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge painted a Korean Wood Cutter that now hangs in the RCEME Museum.

In 1954, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge was posted to the LDSH where he stayed for three years. In 1955, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge took his Group 3 course. He was again on the move in 1957, with a posting to Petawawa. He joined the newly formed 4 Field Workshop that was deployed to Soest, Germany soon after his arrival. During his stay in Germany, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge met an Englishwoman named Barbara Passmore and they were married in 1959. Soon after, they were posted to Calgary, where he was sent to Fort Churchill and assisted in its closure in 1962. This closure period helped him progress further as an artist for he delved into various carvings, paintings and cartoons. He produced the Key to Fort Churchill in brass and aluminium, which was presented by the Minister of Northern Affairs to the Prime Minister during the closure ceremony. Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge also produced RCEME Badge carvings and the first of RCEME cartoons of the EME horse, globe and lightening bolt that we see today throughout the different EME workshops.

In 1964, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge was posted to Fort Chambly, Germany, where he was once again with 4 Field Workshop. He spent four years in Germany honing his skills before being posted to Gagetown in 1968. During his time there, he was commissioned by Brigadiers McAlpine and Hamilton to carve the CFB Gagetown Camp Badge. Along with the badge, he painted murals at the Combat Arms School, at the Mens' Mess and at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess. He was also commissioned by Oromocto Town Council to carve the Coat of Arms for the Council Chambers. He entered the Royal Canadian Mint competitions for the BC Centennial Dollar and the PEI Centennial Dollar designs, but was unsuccessful. Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge was a member of the Fredericton Society of Artists and he appeared on St. John, NB television demonstrating his skills in carving and painting. He was successful in winning 1st and 2nd prize for imaginative wood carving and 3rd prize for oil painting at NB's Fall Fair Exhibition in 1971.

Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge was posted to 3 Field Squadron in Chilliwack in 1972 where he immediately joined the CFB Chilliwack Art Club. He became the president of the Art Club and continued with his artwork that could be seen throughout the base. Many of these same works of art are still present today at ASU Chilliwack and 1 CER, Edmonton. The wood carving of the ASU Chilliwack Symbol of Achievement, which was originally done for the Officers' Mess, now hangs in the ASU Chilliwack Combined Mess. There was a series of carvings done for 1 CER depicting engineers at work that are still proudly displayed in their new home in Edmonton. There are also many other paintings and drawings that have been done for individuals over the years.

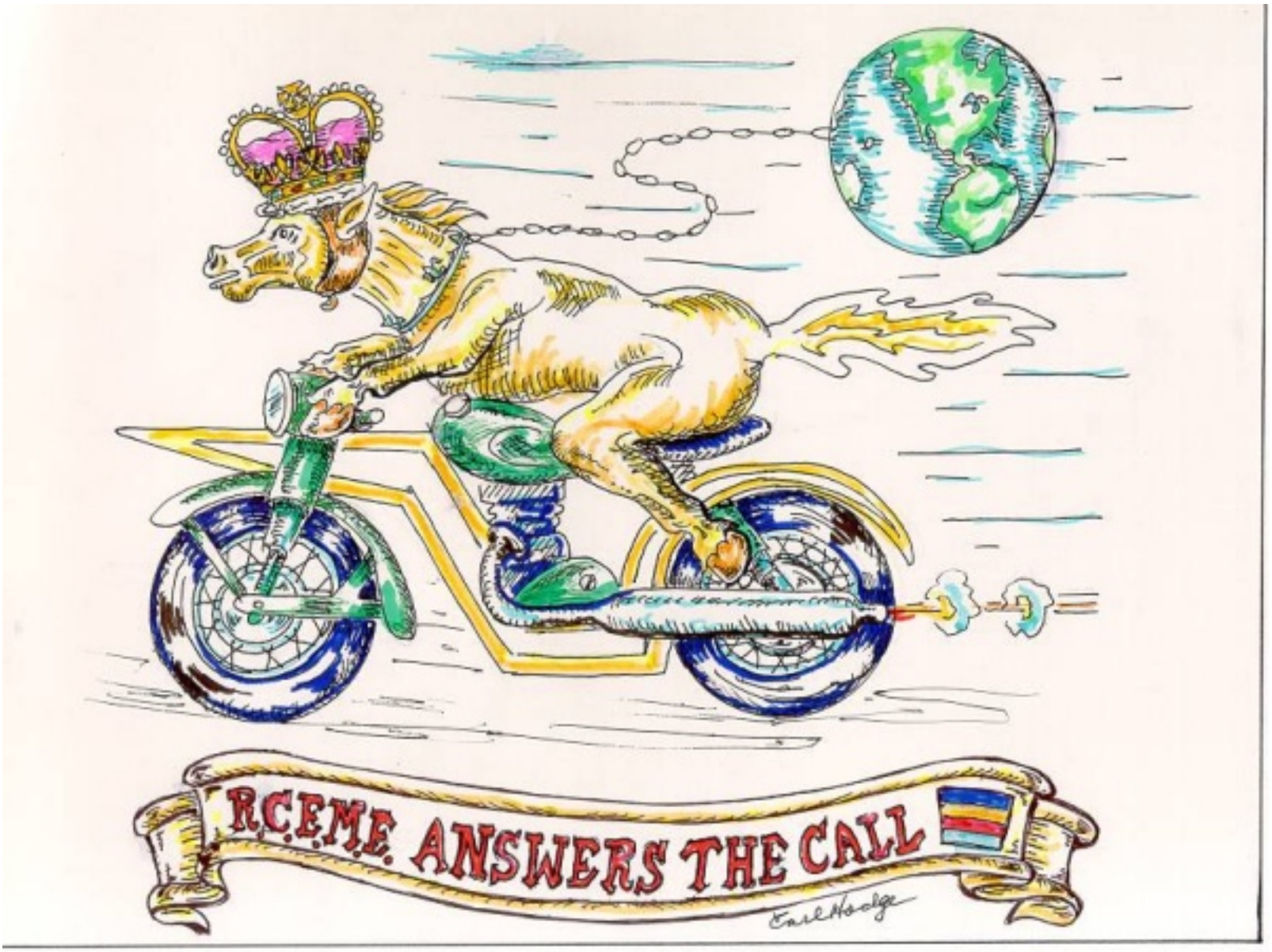
In 1984, Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge retired from the Canadian Forces in Chilliwack with 33 1/2 years service. Following his retirement, he remained a member of the ASU Chilliwack Art Club until its closure in 1997.

He continued to keep himself very busy in the realm of artwork despite the loss of the Art Club and has since been commissioned to carve the new ASU Badge, which is proudly displayed at the front entrance of the unit. He also has carved the EME Badge and the original RCEME Badge for ASU Maintenance Section. These carvings are proudly displayed on the canteen wall along with his RCEME cartoons. He also created a new GEM/EME cartoon for curling titled Sweep! GEM/EME, Sweep! March 2003.

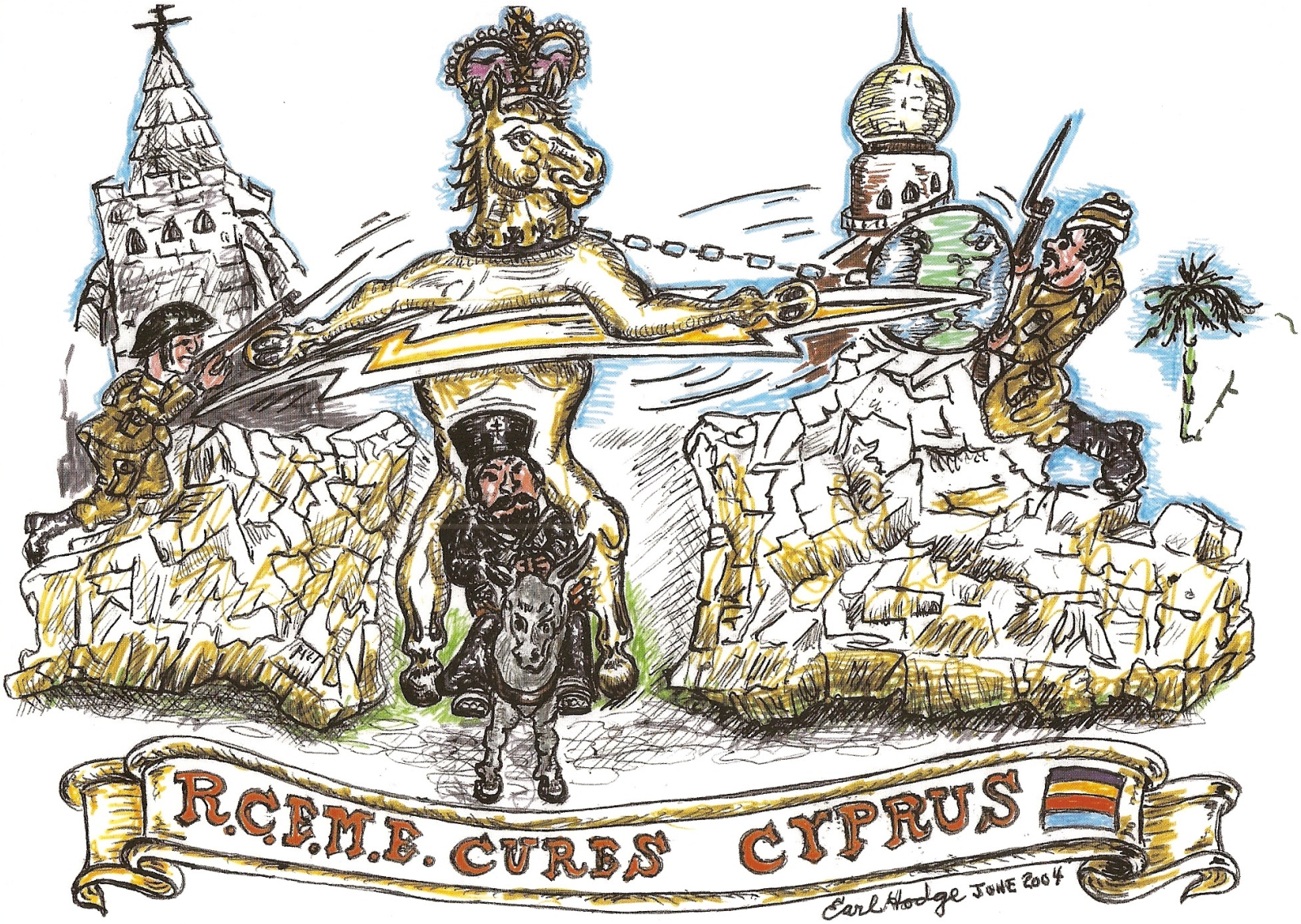
Cpl (Ret'd) Hodge's carvings, paintings and cartoons have been an inspiration and a rallying point for the EME Branch, young and old. Of course, he has touched other branches of the Canadian Forces especially the Engineers, where he spent the last 12 years of his career. He is especially dear to EME.

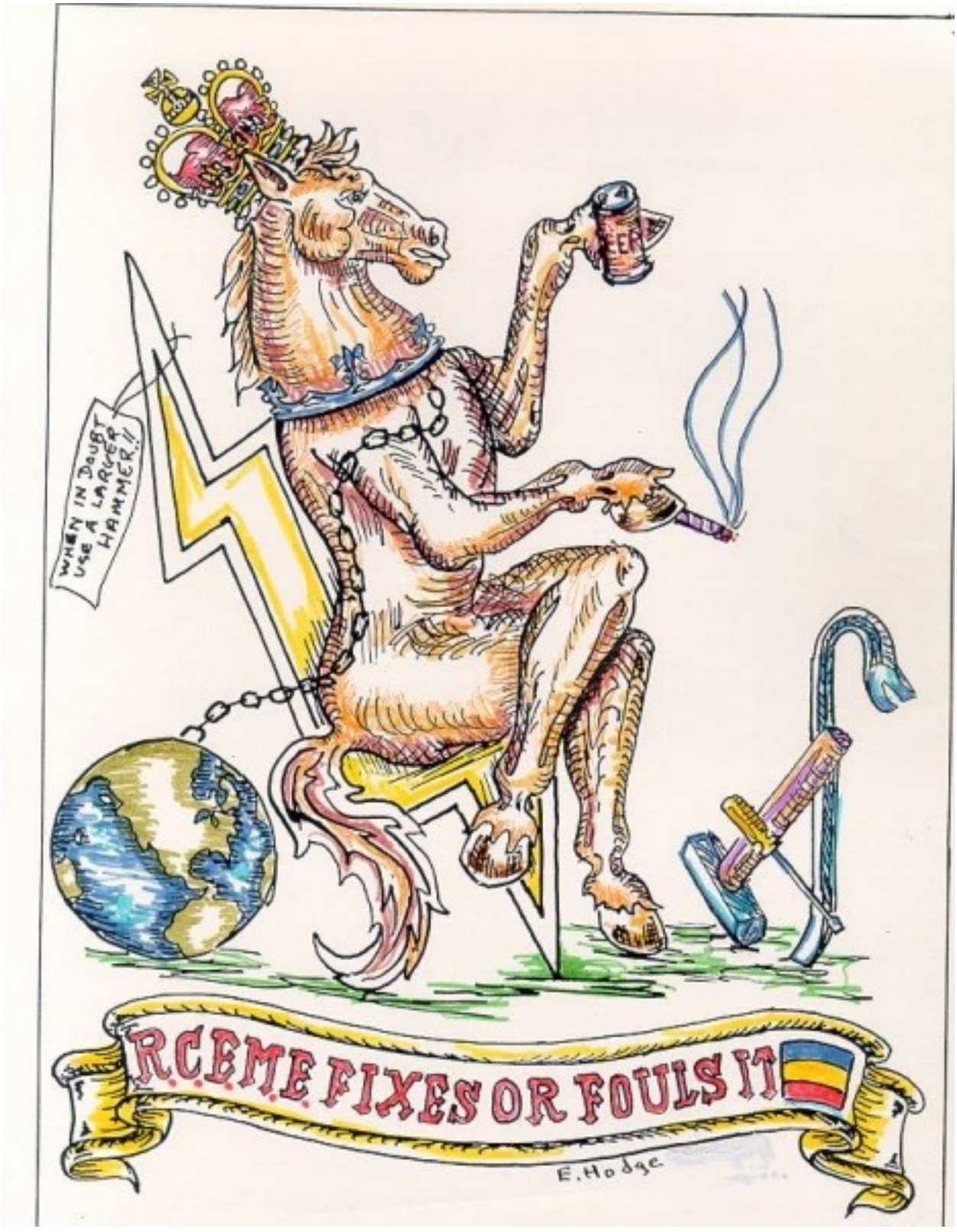
Cpl (Ret'd) Earl Hodge is acknowledged for his contribution to the "Esprit de Corps" of the RCEME, LORE, LEME and EME Branches over the past four decades. Cpl (Ret'd) Earl Hodge has provided a beacon of light, through the EME Branch icons he produced, that no other Branch could match. We are all deeply appreciative of his continued contributions.

Arte et Marte !


R.C.E.M.E. ANSWERS THE CALL
Earl Hodge

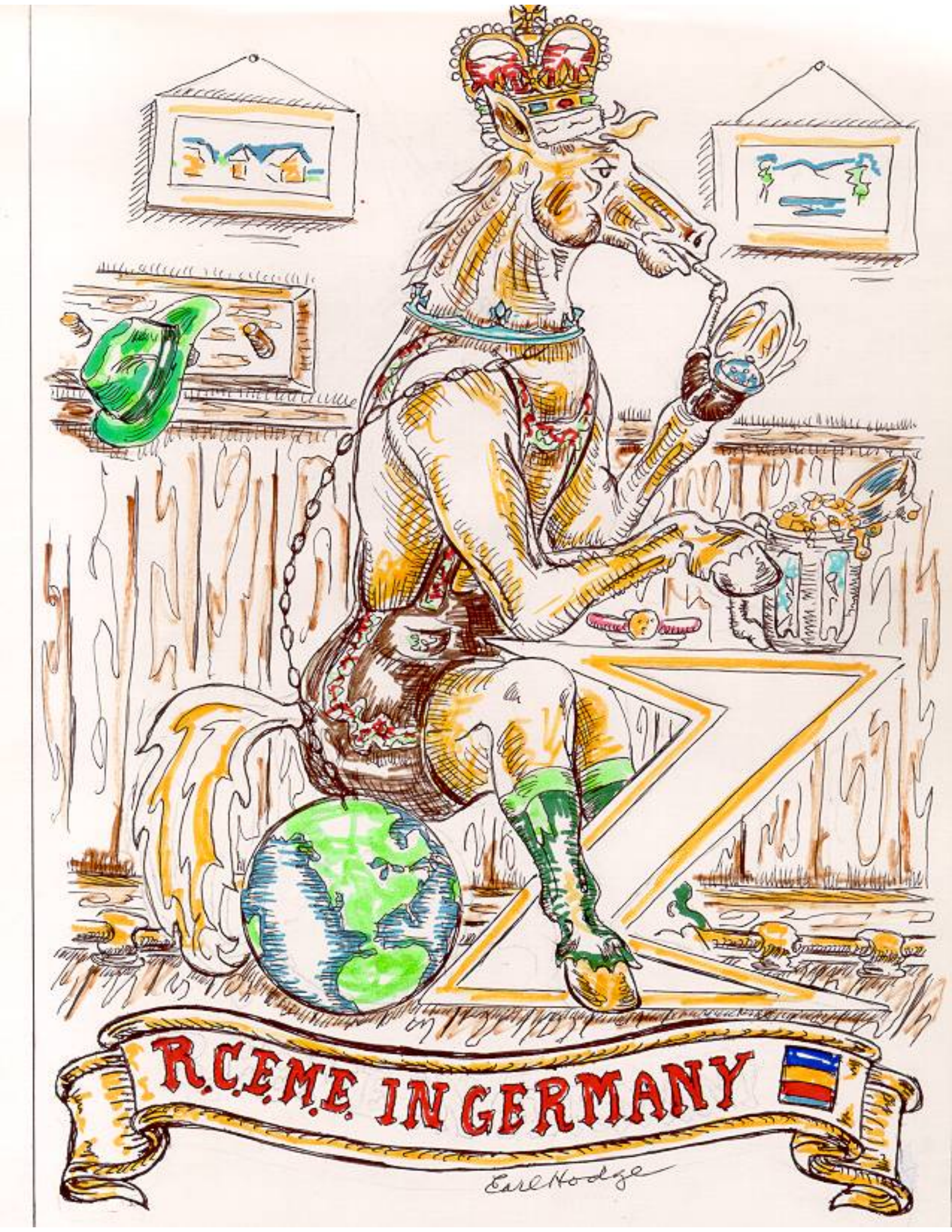
Few Items Escape Brigade M.T.I.
"Hmm, Elementary My Dear Watson, the Bore was obstructed By a Round!!"
By E. Hodge By George!! JAN 1971.


R.E.M.E. CURES CYPRUS
Earl Hodge JUNE 2004


WHEN IN DOUBT USE A LARGER HAMMER!!
R.C.E.M.E. FIXES OR FOULS IT
E. Hodge

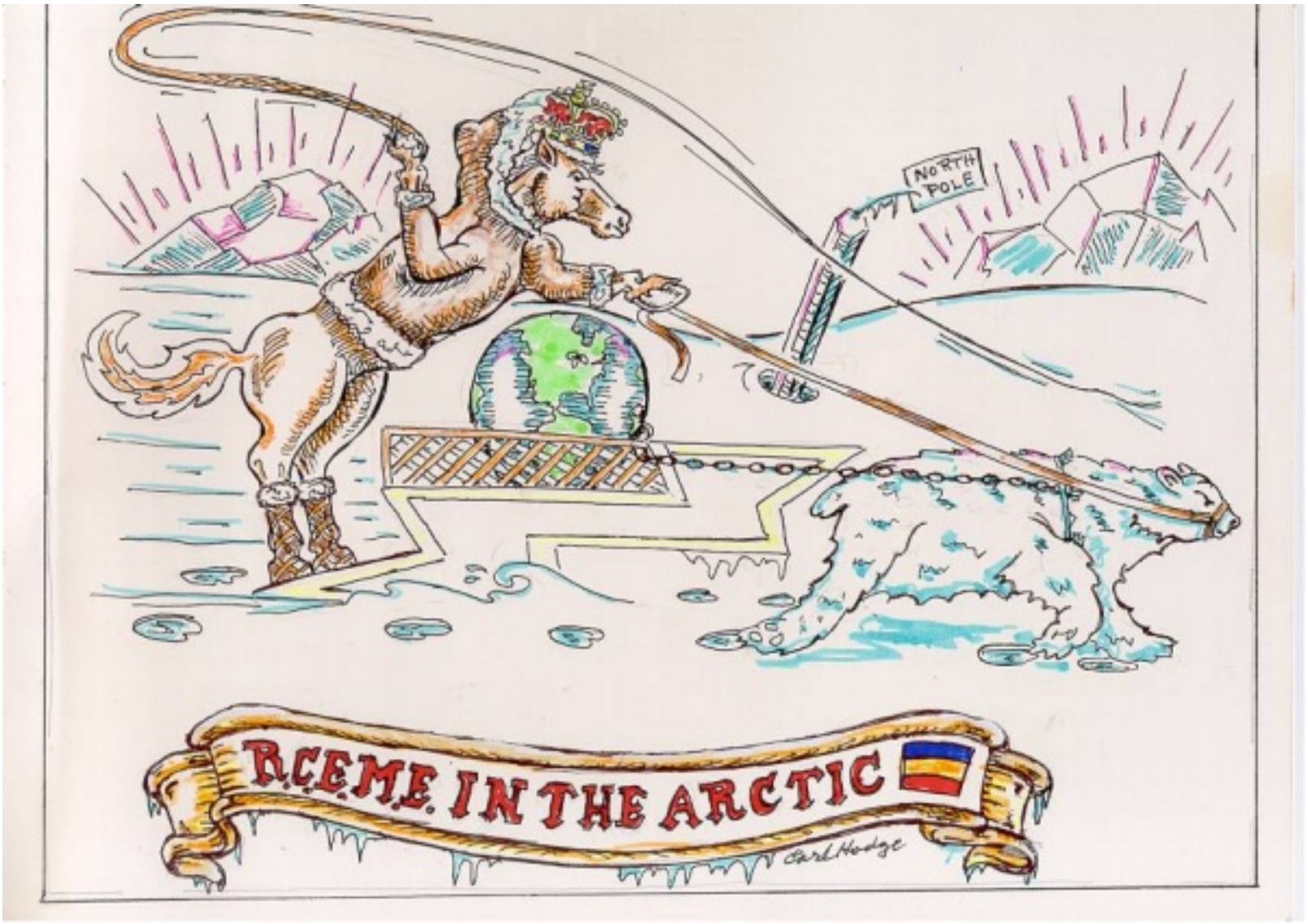
"Well Sir, It's a little modification for easier Engine Removal"

R.C.E.M.E. IN EGYPT


R.C.E.M.E. IN GERMANY
Earl Hodge

R.C.E.M.E IN KOREA
Earl Hodge

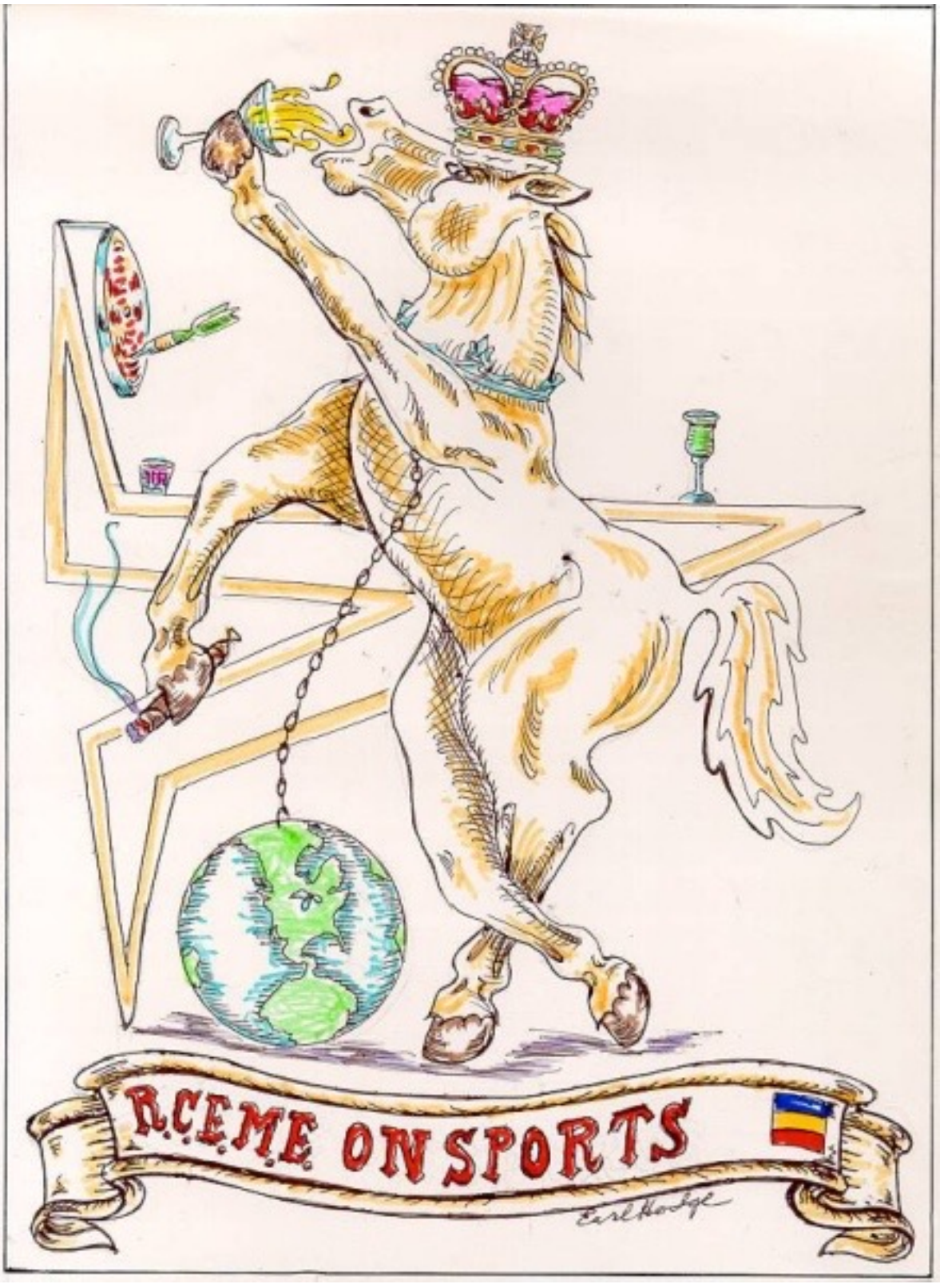
R.C.E.M.E IN THE AIR
Earl Hodge


NORTH POLE
R.C.E.M.E. IN THE ARCTIC
Carl Hodge

BLR
R.C.E.M.E. IN THE FIELD
Earl Hodge

By E. McCoe
By Gerard
Jan 1971
M.T.I. STRIKES AGAIN!!

R.C.E.M.E. ON PARADE
Carl Hodge


R.C.E.M.E. ON SPORTS

R.C.E.M.E TO THE RESCUE
Earl Hodge

"CANADA'S SPACE ARM, HELL, THEY ONLY HAVE TO CALL ON ME!!"
E.M.E./G.E.M. ENTERS THE SPACEAGE
E. Hodge

YOU'RE A HANDSOME BRUTE AT '50'
R.C.E.M.E.'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY
E. Hodge

You Have to Know! How To Fish, When you're On The VEDDER!!
R.C.E.M.E.'s 50th ANNIVERSARY
AT CFB CHILLIWACK
PHOTO TYPE